

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 075261  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ARA-06 IO-13  
DHA-02 /081 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:GJB  
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN  
-----050107Z 059901 /21

O 050050Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 075261

E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON  
ZAIRE APRIL 4

1. PARAS 2 -12 CONTAIN PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR  
APRIL 4 BRIEFING FOR USE ONLY IF ASKED:

2. Q: WHAT ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SHABA  
PROVINCE?

A: AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE DON'T HAVE TO COMMENT ON  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 075261

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS.

3. Q: WHAT ABOUT THE AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE AREA HELD  
BY INVADING FORCES?

A: REPORTS REACHING US INDICATE THAT THEY ARE WELL.

4. Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE ZAIRIAN AID REQUEST?

A: AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE AID REQUEST IS UNDER CAREFUL STUDY.

5. Q: A ZAIRIAN GENERAL HAS CLAIMED THAT CUBANS AND SOVIETS ARE INVOLVED IN THE INVASION OF SHABA. ANY COMMENTS?

A: I DO NOT WISH TO GO BEYOND OUR EARLIER STATEMENT THAT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF DIRECT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING IN SHABA PROVINCE.

6. Q: WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING TO SPEAK OF ON THE NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE. ISN'T IT FAILING?

A: WITHIN THE LAST WEEK NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA VISITED BOTH KINSHASA AND LUANDA TO TALK WITH THE ZAIRIAN AND ANGOLAN LEADERS. SUCH NEGOTIATIONS CAN TAKE TIME; WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

7. IF ASKED ONLY

Q: WE UNDERSTAND THAT TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE IN KOLWEZI. COULD YOU CONFIRM THIS?

A: TWO OFFICERS ARRIVED IN KOLWEZI APRIL 4 FROM THE CONSULATE IN LUBUMBASHI.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 075261

8. Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT?

A: THEY ARE IN KOLWEZI IN ORDER TO INQUIRE INTO THE WELFARE AND WELLBEING OF THE FOUR AMERICANS REMAINING IN THE TOWN. AS WELL AS TO TAKE A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THE SITUATION.

9. Q: WE UNDERSTAND THAT A COALITION OF ZAIRIAN DISSIDENTS PLANS TO MEET IN GENEVA ON APRIL 6. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THEIR PLANS, BUT HAVE NO COMMENT.

10. Q: HOW DOES THE ADMINISTRATION'S REGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SQUARE WITH THE ZAIRIAN DECISION TO EXPEL ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL GOLDSMITH?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO EXPEL MR. GOLDSMITH. OUR AMBASSADOR HAS EXPRESSED OUR

DEEP CONCERN OVER THIS DECISION TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

11. Q: DO WE THINK PRESIDENT MOBUTU CAN SURVIVE THIS CRISIS?

ON BACKGROUND ONLY IF PRESSED

A: PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE AND IN COMMAND OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE HAS SURVIVED OTHER SERIOUS CRISES.

12. PLEASENOTEFOLLOWING REVISED PRESS GUIDANCE:

Q: HOW DOES THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT'S CENSORSHIP OF THE FOREIGN PRESS FIT INTO THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE?  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 075261

A: WE DO NOT CONDONE THE PRACTICE OF CENSORSHIP. WE BELIEVE THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING; AND IS PART AND PARCEL OF HOW WE VIEW THE ROLE OF THE PRESS.  
VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INVASIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, CONTINGENCY PLANNING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE075261  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GHAMILTON:GJB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770117-0579  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770486/aaaacxbs.tel  
**Line Count:** 144  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 7714efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2892285  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE APRIL 4  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AO, CG  
**To:** KINSHASA LAGOS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7714efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009